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Of the
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RURAL DISTRICT OF ULVERSTON.

TOWN HALL,

ULVERSTON,

May, 1942.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again, the honour to present to you my Annual Report, which deals with the health and sanitary condition of the district over which I exercise supervision, as your Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

In spite of the fact that many duties have been delegated to your Inspectors, which do not, normally, come within the scope of a Sanitary Inspector, I think I can, with confidence, say that your district has been kept under close supervision. To prove that this is so, I need only to point to the reports which are presented by your Inspectors month by month.

WATER SUPPLIES.

GENERALLY.—In a Rural District, the water supplies are, naturally, many and varied. In spite of the drought, I think I can say that, with exceptions which I shall deal with later, very little inconvenience has been suffered on account of a failure of supply.

CARTMEL DISTRICT.—On account of the impossibility of negotiating terms with the owner of the field from which the

supplementary supply to the Cartmel Valley District was originally obtained, it was necessary to remove the pump to a site which had been agreed upon with the Holker Estate, and the Council must be commended for their foresight in securing this concession, as the normal supply from the Grange reservoir commenced to fail in July and pumping had to be continuous until October, since when it has been necessary to keep the pump in operation for a certain period each day, otherwise the supply to fifteen houses on the Haggs would have failed, although the Grange reservoir was capable of providing a full supply to other parts of the area. It is hoped that, in the near future, a remedy will be provided to avoid this failure.

ALLITHWAITE VILLAGE.—It was fortunate that your Council had foreseen the trouble and inconvenience that might arise should the ordinary supply to this village fail, as had been the case for several summers. This inconvenience was avoided by the installation of an electric pump near the Old Brewery, and by this means an inexhaustible and pure supply was ensured.

In speaking of the Cartmel water supply, it must, in fairness, be explained that the Army and Air Force Camps are being supplied with approximately 7,000,000 gallons of water annually, and it is very possible that this demand will increase.

HAWKSHEAD.—During September the ordinary supply to Hawkshead from the tank failed entirely and it was necessary to pump water from the Esthwaite Lake to provide a supply. In order that this contingency may be avoided in the future, arrangements are being made to pipe a supplementary supply from the tarn known as Goose Foot to the present tank : thus it is hoped to avoid any future anxiety of failure.

During the year the water mains from the works at Roger Ground have been scraped and the supply greatly improved.

KIRKBY DISTRICT.—Normally, the Kirkby District should be supplied by a branch taken from the Barrow Corporation main as it passes through the village, but on account of the extra demand for water made upon the Barrow main, no doubt due to war conditions, a booster was installed at Askam and when this is in action, which as a matter of fact is nearly constant, the Kirkby District is entirely deprived of its supply. It is to be hoped that negotiations which are in progress with the Barrow Corporation will result in there being an improvement in existing conditions.

CLAIFE.—During the year a new storage tank, with a capacity of 80,000 gallons, was completed and put into use.

SWARTHMOOR AND LOW FURNESS.—The method of supply in the past to Swarthmoor and Low Furness was by means of a 5-inch branch taken from the Ulverston Urban 9-inch main. When the draught on the Ulverston main was heavy the pressure at Swarthmoor and in the Low Furness district was reduced to such an extent as to yield an insufficient supply ; indeed there was at times an entire failure in delivery. To obviate this, arrangements were made with the Ulverston Urban District Council by which the two Authorities should connect independently with the filter beds, and now a satisfactory supply is available for Swarthmoor, Leece, Dendron, Gleaston, and Highfield, under greatly improved pressure.

There is still need for an improvement in the supply to Baycliff, but the main will have attention from Scales to Baycliff, after which it is hoped there may be an improvement.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The construction of a new sewerage plant at High Newton, consisting of a Dosing Tank and Rotary Distributing Filter

has been completed. The Hannakin (Hawkshead) outfall has received attention.

I regret to say that no progress has been made with the drainage of the Cottages at Chappels, or those at Highfield (Urswick).

COWSHEDS.

As far as is possible, the Cowsheds, Dairies and method of milk production in the district is kept under supervision, but the Council will understand that with such a very large number of registered Cowkeepers in a scattered district it is impossible to exercise the close supervision desirable in the production of such an important article of food. The time will come when it will be necessary to appoint a separate official for this work.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There is nothing to add to what I said in my Annual Report for 1940. All animals are slaughtered centrally and the carcasses distributed to the various retailers.

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

With the shortage of labour and difficulty of obtaining transport, the work of House Refuse Removal has become increasingly difficult and one cannot see much prospect of an improvement until times become more normal, but knowing the anxiety of the Council that this work should be efficiently performed, I have hope that we may see an improvement in the near future.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 127,485.

Population (1931) enumerated 16,719.

Estimated (end of 1941) 18,000.

Number of inhabited houses, 4,945.

Rateable value, £73,355.

Amount produced by a penny rate, £284. 10s. 7d.

POPULATION.—In the absence of a census enumeration, it is not possible to give an exact estimate of the population. It varies from day to day as evacuees return to their homes, but, I think, the figure given above will be fairly accurate.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.		Total.	Male.	Female.	Rate per 1000
Legitimate	..	216	94	122	
Illegitimate	..	1	..	1	
TOTALS		217	94	123	12.0

DISTRIBUTION OF BIRTHS.

		1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Total		Rate per 1000
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Broughton West		4	5	9	14	4	5	7	9	24	33	
Cartmel	..	7	5	5	9	4	10	5	7	21	31	
Dalton	..	3	3	11	15	3	8	8	8	25	34	
Ulverston	..	4	1	5	9	8	6	7	9	24	25	
Totals		18	14	30	47	19	29	27	33	94	123	12.0

DEATHS.

To calculate correctly the death-rate, it is necessary to take from the total number recorded, the deaths of persons who have died in the district, but were not residents. To the result thus obtained must be added the deaths of residents which have occurred outside the district. Making this calculation, I find that the number of deaths has been 225, equal to a death-rate of 12.5 per 1,000. Last year there were 247 deaths, equal to a death-rate per 1,000 of 13.1.

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

	1st quarter		2nd quarter		3rd quarter		4th quarter		Totals		Rate per 1000
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Broughton West	14	13	6	12	5	8	6	3	31	36	
Cartmel ..	8	9	7	10	9	5	11	5	35	29	
Dalton ..	6	6	9	7	2	2	5	8	22	23	
Ulverston ..	6	10	1	7	6	8	5	6	18	31	
Totals	34	38	23	36	22	23	27	22	106	119	12.5

AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DEATHS OCCURRED:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Under 1 year	8	4	12
Between 1 and 65 ..	41	36	77
65 and Upwards ..	57	79	136
Totals	106	119	225

INFANTILE DEATHS.—By infantile deaths we mean the deaths of infants before reaching the end of their first year, and the rate per 1,000 is calculated by taking the total deaths occurring during under one year and dividing by the registered births. For the year under review there have been 12 infantile deaths, which equals a death-rate of 55.0 per 1,000 births. Last year there were 11 deaths at this age period, the death-rate, according to the number of registered births being 45.1 per 1,000.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE INFANTILE DEATHS.

	Broughton West.		Cartmel.		Dalton		Ulverston		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Congenital Defects	2	1	..	..	2	..	..	2	4	3
Pneumonia ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	3	..
Accident ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Totals	2	2	1	..	5	..	..	2	8	4
Rate per 1000 Births	70.0		19.2		65.0		40.8		55.0	

TUBERCULAR DISEASES.—All cases of Tubercular Disease notified are referred to the Tuberculosis Department of the County for treatment. I give herewith the cases notified and their distribution as to the part of the district in which they occurred, also the deaths.

		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.		Non- Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.		Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.		Non- Pulmonary Tuber- culosis.	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Broughton West	..	..	2	1	1	1			
Cartmel	..	..	4	4	1	1		2	
Dalton	..	..	2	4		1	1	2	
Ulverston..	..	..	5	1	1	1		1	
Totals		11	11	3	4	2	5		

AGE PERIODS OF NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS.

Age—Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Years.								
0—1 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5 .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
5—10 .. ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
10—15 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—20	3	3	1	..	..	..	..	..
20—25	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25—35	3	2	..	2	1	..	..	..
35—45	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..
45—55 .. ..	..	2	..	..	..	2	..	..
55—65 .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	3	..	..	..	2	..	..
Totals ..	11	11	3	4	2	5	..	..
	22		7		7		..	

The rate per 1,000 is 1.6 for all cases ; for Pulmonary 0.44, and Non-Pulmonary 0.38—not quite so satisfactory as last year.

CANCER.—Our statistics do not show any improvement in the incidence of this disease, and I fear that when we consider the character of the population of which our district is composed, we can scarcely look forward to much improvement. Thirty-three deaths have arisen from Cancer of various organs, producing a death-rate per 1,000 of 1.83, compared with 1.44 in 1940.

CANCER.

DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS.

	Male.	Female.	Total.	Rate per 1000
Broughton West	6	6	12	
Cartmel	5	4	9	
Dalton	1	6	7	
Ulverston	2	3	5	
Totals	14	19	33	1.83

ORGANS AFFECTED AND AGE PERIODS AT WHICH THE DISEASE HAS OCCURRED.

	15-25		25-35		35-45		45-55		55-65		65 up.		Total.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Stomach	1	..	2	1	3	1
Breast	2	..	2	..	4
Prostate	1	..	1	..	2	..
Pelvis	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Intestine	2	..	1	..	2	..	5
Lung	1	1	1	1
Mouth	1	..	1	..
Bladder	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	1
Oesophagus	1	..	1
Rectum	1	..	2	..	3	..
Ovary	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Skin	1	..	..	..	1	..
Glands	1	..	1	..
Testis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Pancreas	1	..	1
Uterus	1	..	..	..	1
Spine	1	..	1
TOTALS	1	1	..	1	3	5	5	8	9	15	18

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.—Only seven cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, all of a very mild type. In recent years the character of Scarlet Fever has entirely changed, the cases being unusually mild and without the severe sore throat and brilliant rash, and sequelae are rare, it is seldom we have profuse desquamation, diarrhoea, or suppurating glands.

DIPHTHERIA.—Of the cases of Diphtheria notified, 18 occurred in the last three months of the year. Thirteen of these were part of a severe epidemic which occurred at Hawkshead,

two deaths arising from the disease. The origin of this outbreak was not discovered, but undoubtedly it was due to an undiscovered "carrier" case.

IMMUNISATION.—During the year the work of immunisation has continued, a total of 1422 children having been inoculated, 1209 being of school age and 213 of pre-school age.

PARA-TYPHOID FEVER.—In a special report to the Council, I dealt with what amounted almost to an epidemic of Para-Typhoid Fever. In all there were nine cases, eight treated in the hospital. The outbreak occurred in persons residing in districts widely separated from each other, so there was no question of spread by personal contact, nor could unsanitary conditions, the milk, or water supplies be suspected. The cases were all very mild and needed only a very short stay in hospital.

MEASLES.—This disease was extensively prevalent in the Broughton West Area.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE CASES.

			Broughton West		Cartmel		Dalton		Ulverston		Total	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Scarlet Fever	..	..	2	..	1	3	..	1	..	..	3	4
Diphtheria	..	..	5	8	..	..	4	1	1	3	10	12
Erysipelas	..	..	..	1	3	3	..	..	..	1	3	5
Pneumonia	..	..	2	1	18	4	1	1	1	..	22	6
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3
Measles	..	..	47	1	6	2	2	..	..	..	55	3
Whooping Cough	..	..	8	4	6	4	..	..	4	6	18	14
Cerebro Sp. Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Para Typhoid Fever	..	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	4	..	6	3
Totals			65	17	35	20	8	3	10	10	118	50

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 sup- wards	Cases Removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
Scarlet Fever ..	7	..	1	..	2	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	5	..
Diphtheria ..	22	..	..	..	..	3	9	7	1	1	1	..	..	..	21	..
Erysipelas ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	1	..
Pneumonia ..	28	5	..	1	1	..	1	..	2	1	5	4	4	4	2	..
Puerperal Sepsis	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	..
Measles ..	58	2	1	1	1	2	27	20	2	1	1	..	..	..	2	..
Whooping Cough	32	4	4	2	5	2	13	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..
Cerebro Sp.Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..
Para Typhoid Fever	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	1	8	..
Totals	168	11	6	4	9	7	54	31	7	10	11	5	6	7	44	..

The Laboratory work of the Authority is carried out at the Liverpool Corporation Laboratories.

All sera are supplied to Medical Practitioners free.

In concluding my report, I must express my gratitude to the Council and my colleagues for all the co-operation and support which I have received.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. H. PATTERSON.

L.R.C.P. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng., D.P.H. Lond.

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1942.

